NAPIER CITY COUNCIL

LGOIMA Response – No Comparative Assessment of Infrastructure Protection versus Managed Retreat

LGOIMA 25284 | Response received July 2026

1. Purpose of this Note

This note records the formal response of Napier City Council to LGOIMA request 25284 concerning consultant expenditure and comparative analysis of infrastructure protection options versus managed retreat or property acquisition pathways. It is prepared as a public-interest transparency record.

2. Request Summary

After clarification, the request sought (in summary):

- Expenditure on external consultants for flood protection, stormwater, coastal hazard, managed retreat, property acquisition, or climate adaptation planning.
- Reports, briefings, technical assessments, or analysis comparing major infrastructure protection options versus managed retreat, property acquisition, or voluntary buyout pathways in Napier or the wider Hawke's Bay area (primarily final reports, completed assessments, and key briefing papers; timeframe narrowed to 1 January 2023 onward).
- Modelling or advice on long-term impacts on ratepayers, property values, or council revenue from large-scale property acquisition or managed retreat.

3. Key Formal Responses

3.1 Comparative assessment

Napier City Council stated:

"While these planning initiatives address flood risk management and resilience, Napier City Council has not undertaken a specific comparative assessment or business case comparing infrastructure protection options against managed retreat or property acquisition pathways within the scope and timeframe identified in your request."

The remaining parts of the request were refused under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA (the document containing the information does not exist or cannot be found). Council noted that the information requested is predominantly held by Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

3.2 Other material released

Council referred to ongoing District Plan review provisions on onsite stormwater management and an Esk Valley Natural Hazards Plan Change informed by updated flood hazard modelling. These were presented as planning initiatives addressing flood risk; they were not characterised as the comparative assessment sought.

4. Significance

This response adds a further formal data point to the national pattern:

- A territorial authority has stated in writing that it has not undertaken a specific comparative assessment or business case of infrastructure protection versus managed retreat / property acquisition pathways.
- The practical outcome is the absence of the comparative analysis sought, recorded under the LGOIMA.

5. Source Document

Napier City Council LGOIMA response, reference 25284, July 2026.

Public-interest transparency record prepared from primary LGOIMA response material. July 2026.